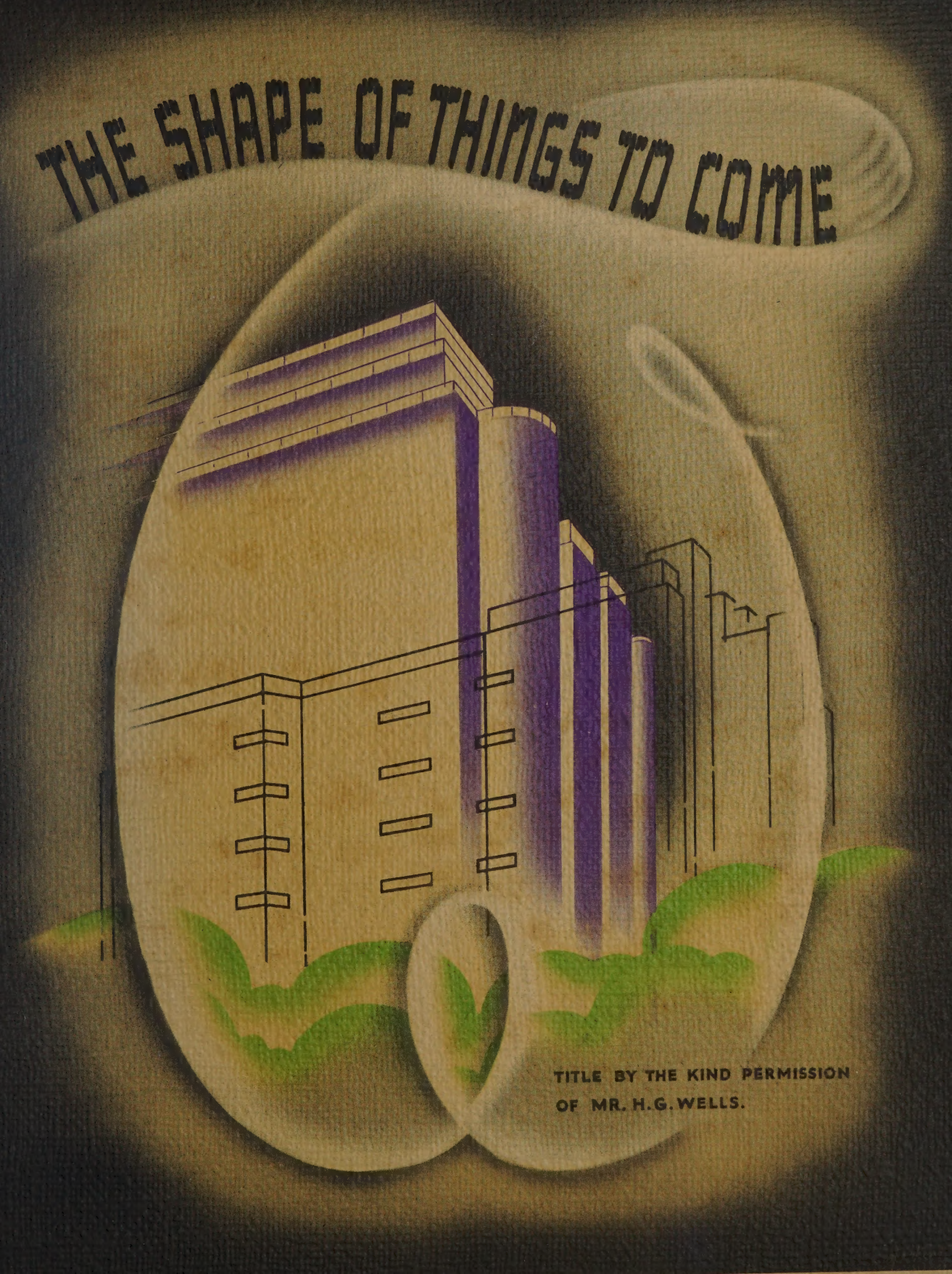
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME



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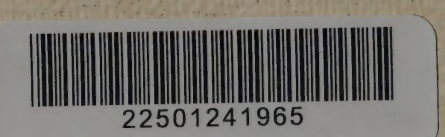


A Brief Story

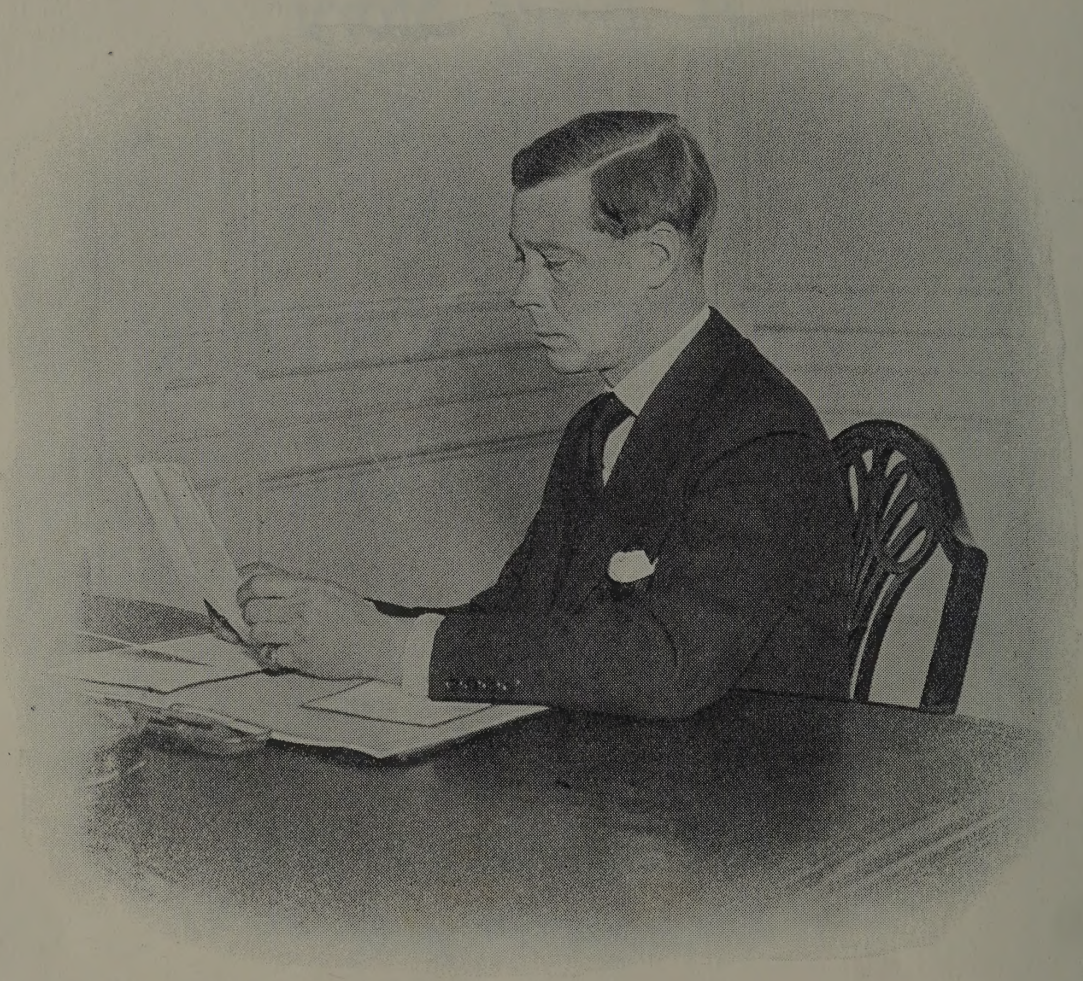
of

The NEW WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

The Final Phase of a Great Project.

[1936]

HIS MAJESTY THE KING



By Courtesy of the "Times"

President of Westminster Hospital, 1915-1936
Patron, 1936

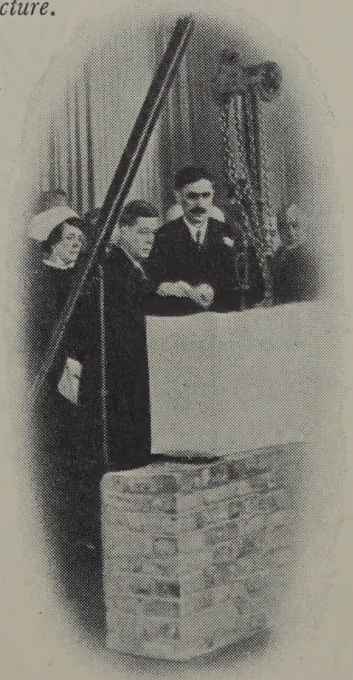
The Shape of Things to Come

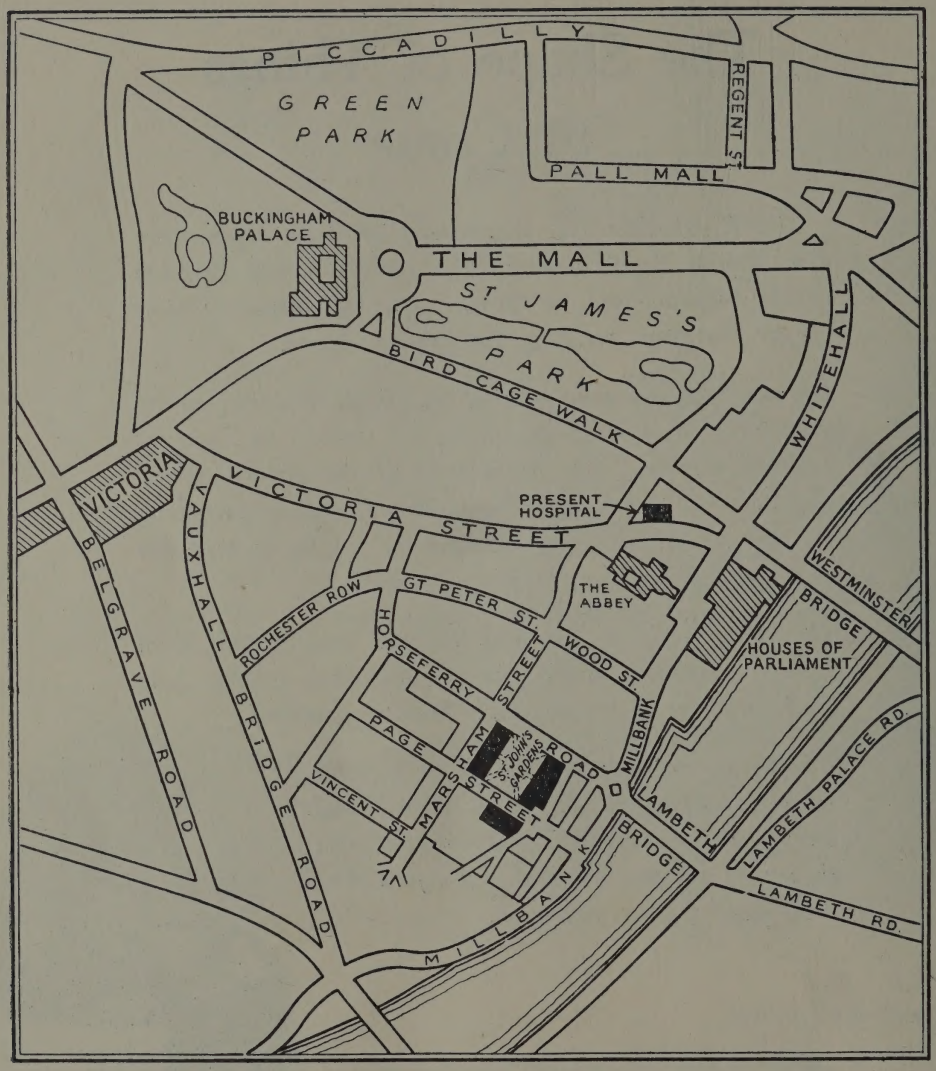
THE rebuilding of Westminster Hospital began when His Majesty the King, then Prince of Wales and President of the hospital, laid, in June, 1935, the foundation stone of our first new building, the Nurses' Home.

Our new site, on either side of St. John's Gardens, on the south side of Westminster Abbey, is to-day the scene of building activity. The foundations of the Nurses' Home, and the new Medical School adjoining it, having been laid, the steel structure is rising fast and the outlines of these two important buildings are now plainly evident.

Having advanced so far with the first part of this great hospital rebuilding scheme, we are proceeding at once with the foundations of the new main hospital structure.

The purpose of this brochure is to give the reader an outline of all that has been accomplished during the three years which have elapsed since the scheme was first launched, and a forecast— "*the shape of things to come*".





The Position of the New Westminster Hospital, Nurses' Home and Medical School and Land reserved for future needs.

NEW WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

Original Features in Design and Construction

NEW Westminster Hospital will cover an area of 66,000 feet, nearly double the space occupied by the old hospital in Broad Sanctuary, the Nurses' Home in Queen Anne's Gate, the Medical School in Caxton Street and the Radium Annexe in Hampstead.

The plan on the opposite page shows where the new Westminster Hospital and the new Medical School and Nurses' Home are being erected, east and west of St. John's Gardens. Land on the south side of the Gardens has been acquired for future extension, while the opportunity still existed.

The new buildings will not only cover more ground and rise higher, but will be designed to make possible the use of modern methods of treatment and of scientific investigation. They will embody ideas which in many respects are a departure from tradition. All that is good has been retained; much that is entirely new has been introduced.

Structurally, the main building, containing the hospital wards, operating theatres, out-patients' departments, medical and nursing administrative offices, will consist of a central spine with three wings jutting out on each side, east and west.

The Covered Road

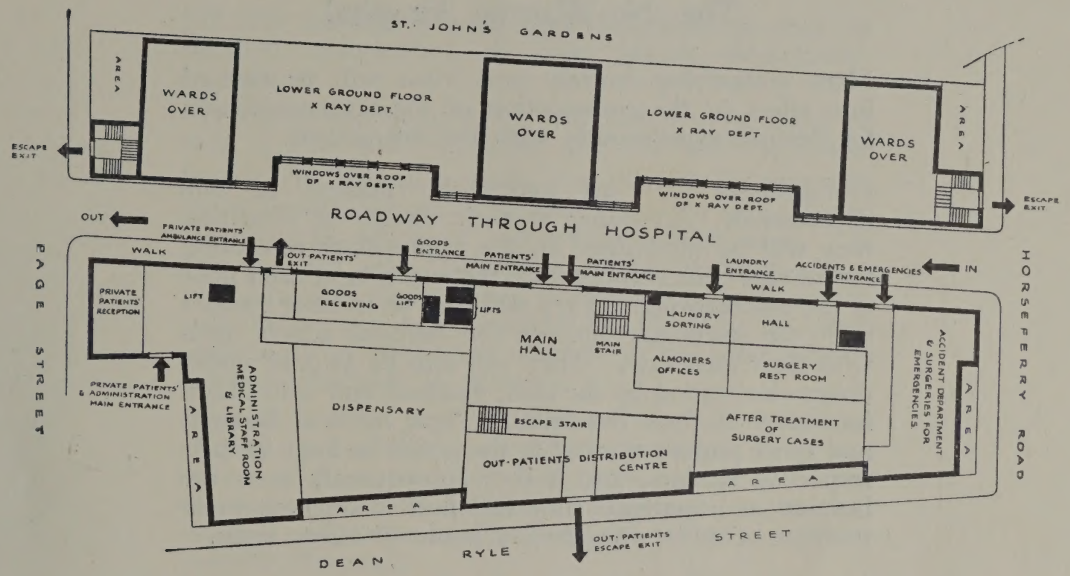
Through the spine, or backbone, of the hospital, will run a Covered Road, traversing the building from north to south.

This feature is introduced for the first time in hospital construction. The main approach to the Hospital will be by the north end of the roadway. On one side of the roadway, always under cover, will be the entrances to seven main departments of the hospital.

Advantages to be gained from this novel design are many. Having approached by the covered way, the staff,—medical and administrative,—the patients and visitors will enter the building itself by their appropriate doors, at each of which there will be lifts to carry them to the floors above. Economy of time and ease of working will, in this, as in all new features of Westminster Hospital, be effected by a courageous departure from traditional design. One detail will suffice to show the value of this covered way : No longer will ambulance cases be carried into the hospital through the open air. Driven under cover to the emergency surgery, to the casualty clearing station door, or to that which serves the ward to which his case is consigned, the patient will reach his destination quickly, and without being exposed to rain or bad weather.

The resemblance of the structure of this new hospital to that of the human body will not escape notice ; it will, in effect, be a building with backbone, ribs, brain, and radiating nerve and circulation systems. The building and its purpose are defined and linked by this unique design.

Ground floor plan of the New Hospital showing access to Departments through the Covered Road



The First Gas-proof Hospital

As Westminster Hospital must of necessity remain in a district of London specially liable to attack by air, the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office has been consulted on the subject of rendering the new Hospital as safe as possible from the effects of air attack.

After an examination of the plans by the Department and the Hospital in consultation with the Hospital's architects and engineers, it has been agreed that the Covered Road, primarily introduced for the service of patients and staff, can be transformed without much cost into a gas-proof shelter.

This will be done by the provision of emergency double doors at either end of the Covered Road, which will constitute an "air-lock". Once within the airlock, persons who must be brought into the Hospital will be stripped of their clothing, which must be destroyed, and new clothes will be provided. They can then safely enter the Hospital for shelter or treatment.

In addition, roofs are to be specially strengthened and windows protected against splinters. Further, all rooms below a certain level in each wing will be supplied with fresh air from an air-conditioning plant.

These precautions will, it is hoped, provide a large measure of safety against eventualities which we earnestly hope will never arise.

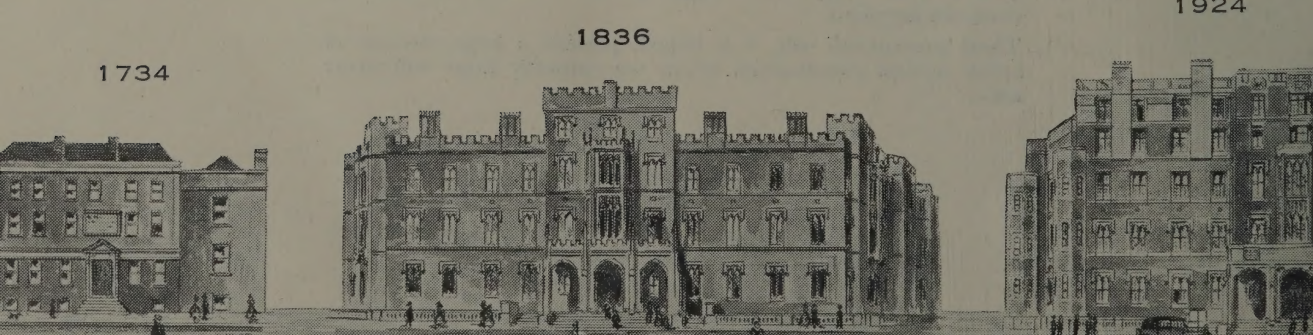
The No-Waiting Hospital

Plans embodying entirely new ideas will be carried into effect in the construction of the accommodation for dealing expeditiously with the out-patient.

Out-patients will no longer be massed in one department. According to their disease or condition they will be distributed to the appropriate consulting rooms and clinics situated on the east side of each floor of the central wing. They will thus be in close contact with the particular unit of the hospital which deals with their own case. They will also be at once under direct observation by the staff, resident and consultant, interested in their condition. Their medical histories and other papers relating to them will be kept in their respective sections, and if they subsequently enter the hospital as in-patients they will find themselves under the care of those who already know all about them.

These are the main features of this entirely novel scheme, which has received the approval of the King's Fund and other authorities, and has already earned for new Westminster Hospital the title of " The No-Waiting Hospital ".

On entering the hospital by the covered way, it is estimated that the greater proportion of the out-patients will go straight to the section concerned with their case. These will be those who have come by appointment on the recommendation of doctors, or have previously been treated and know, therefore, where to go. The remaining out-patients consisting of new cases coming without doctor's introduction or appointment, will go first to a casualty clearing station, where they will be rapidly examined by



full-time medical officers, and transferred at once for detailed examination to their proper departments upstairs.

For casualties, brought by ambulance or arriving on foot, a new and admirable provision will be made.

There will be two separate sets of casualty surgeries, male, female and children, one for minor injuries, and the other for advanced and gravely injured cases. In this way the man, woman or child, arriving with a comparatively slight injury requiring surgical attention will no longer be disturbed by the sight of others suffering from distressing wounds, as has unfortunately been unavoidable in the past.

Though it is not expected that waiting will be entirely eliminated under this new system, inasmuch as no one can predict exactly how long each case may occupy the attention of the physician or surgeon, unnecessary waiting will undoubtedly disappear in the new Westminster Hospital.

A New Ward System

Novelty, and a departure from tradition, will again be seen in the wards of new Westminster. There will be no longer separate wings for male and female patients. Wards for men and wards for women suffering from the same type of disease or condition will be closely associated on the same floor.

This will represent an important saving of time for doctors, surgeons, nurses, and other staff, who will be spared a great deal of unnecessary walking to and fro from one end of the hospital or from one floor to

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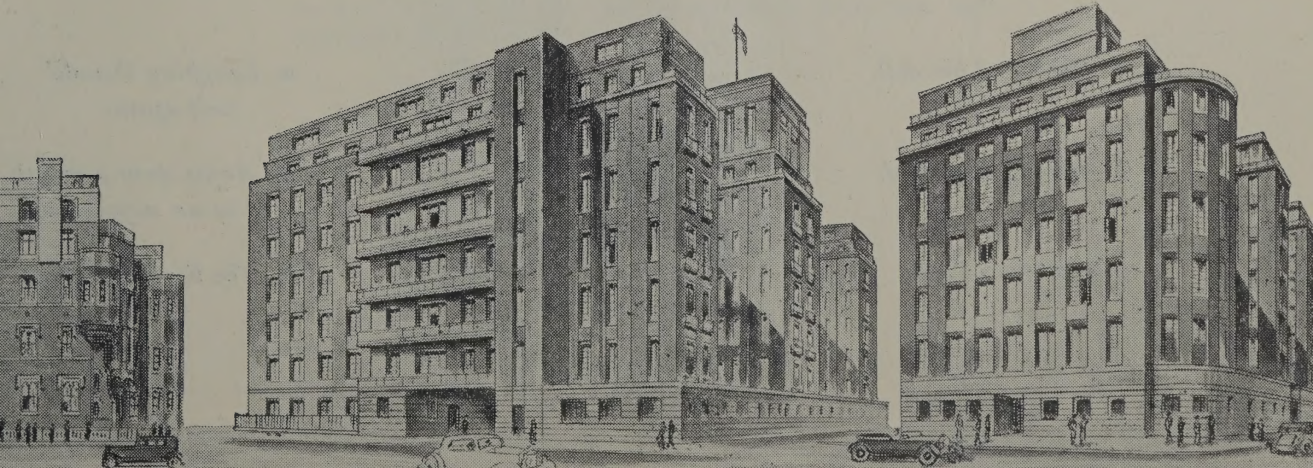
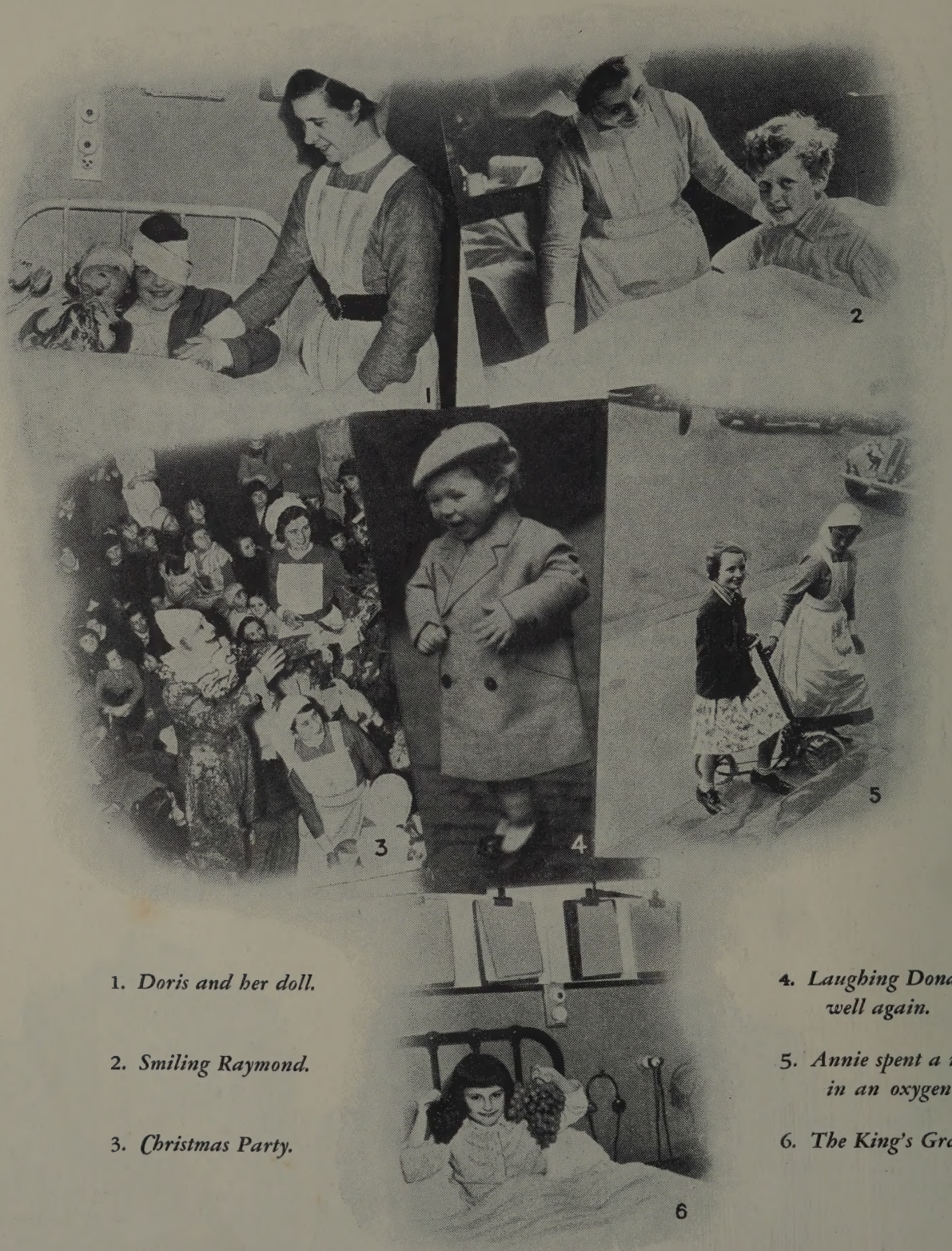


Our Children



1. *Doris and her doll.*

2. *Smiling Raymond.*

3. *Christmas Party.*

4. *Laughing Donald well again.*

5. *Annie spent a month in an oxygen tent!*

6. *The King's Grapes.*

another. The same sister and nursing staff will in this way be responsible for both men and women patients in each separate unit of the hospital. This fact will produce, it is believed, very important co-operation, and greatly benefit both patients and those who have the care of them.

Ideal Small Wards

In this respect new Westminster Hospital will not depart from tradition. It will retain its small wards. No ward will have more than 11 beds. Experience has shown that this is an ideal number. The small ward promotes better service, greater ease and quiet for patients, and less fatigue for nurses.

There will be even smaller wards for isolation cases, and separate rooms adjacent to every ward where the patients for whom the doctor's skill is no longer of avail can be ministered to without distressing the patients in the open wards.

Middle-Class Patients

Out of the 400 beds for patients in new Westminster, 100 will be allotted to those who can pay in whole or part for the care, attention, and medical service given to them.

Half these private beds will be in separate rooms, and the other half in screened small wards.

The provision of such facilities for those who must receive hospital treatment but can afford to pay their share is recognised as an essential hospital service to-day, and one for which voluntary hospitals are specially suited.

The Noiseless Hospital

Transference of Westminster Hospital from a busy thoroughfare to the quieter and more open area chosen behind the Abbey and on either side of St. John's Garden, will in itself ensure for the 400 patients who will occupy beds in the new buildings more light, more air, and especially more quiet.

But more still is to be done to ensure freedom from noise in new Westminster Hospital. For the first time in hospital reconstruction the question of noise has been studied in every detail by scientific experts, and as a result the new building should be known as " the noiseless hospital ".

There are two main causes of noise in a building ; internal, due to movement and vibration from within ; external, due to sounds from without. Consulting engineers, working with the architects and builders, have devised walls and floors, windows and doors, which will tap noise and vibration from whatever source it may come, and eliminate it. Special shock-absorbing floors will be laid throughout the Hospital. Wards, rooms and corridors will be covered in such a manner as to minimise the noise of internal traffic.

For Anxious Friends

On each ward floor of the new hospital a sitting-room will be set aside for those anxious visitors summoned to attend by day or night in critical cases. Facilities for obtaining meals will be extended, and, if necessary, a bed for the night will be provided.

THE CHAPEL.

This beautiful little chapel, known to visitors to old Westminster Hospital, will be transferred, with its stained-glass windows, and memorials, to the top floor of the new building, where it is hoped that it will form a distinctive architectural feature of this beautiful corner of Westminster.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL,

MEDICAL SCHOOL AND NURSES' HOME 1939.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

By Courtesy of "Hay Wrightson"

Patroness of Westminster Hospital

Smaller Theatres

"No student learns anything by watching operations —only by assisting"—is a modern maxim in hospital practice which has governed the design of the operating theatres in new Westminster Hospital.

The new theatres will provide only for the attendance of surgeons, their assistants, and dressers, the latter being a duty which all students must perform in turn. The theatres will therefore be smaller in size and greater in number.

The main operating theatres will be grouped on the top floors at the north side of the hospital. In addition there will be smaller operating theatres situated for convenience within the special departments.

Windows in most of the theatres will be made as small as possible and will be near the ceilings. This is another innovation, the space generally given to theatre windows in modern hospitals being as large as possible.

Westminster surgeons, whose advice has been followed in this matter, are agreed that they can work better without the aid of natural sunlight, which is a most variable source, subject to the influence of passing clouds, even on fine days. The surgeons will work day and night under the same steady, constant artificial shadowless light.

In addition to the pathological and research laboratories placed in the Medical School building, where most of this work will be done, there will be small clinical

laboratories on each of the ward floors in the main hospital for quick examination in operative and other urgent cases.

Feeding 900 a day

Food and service must be provided for the needs of at least nine hundred persons a day in the hospital, Nurses' Home, and Medical School.

400 patients must be given every meal ;

300 of the nursing and domestic staff must be fed daily ;

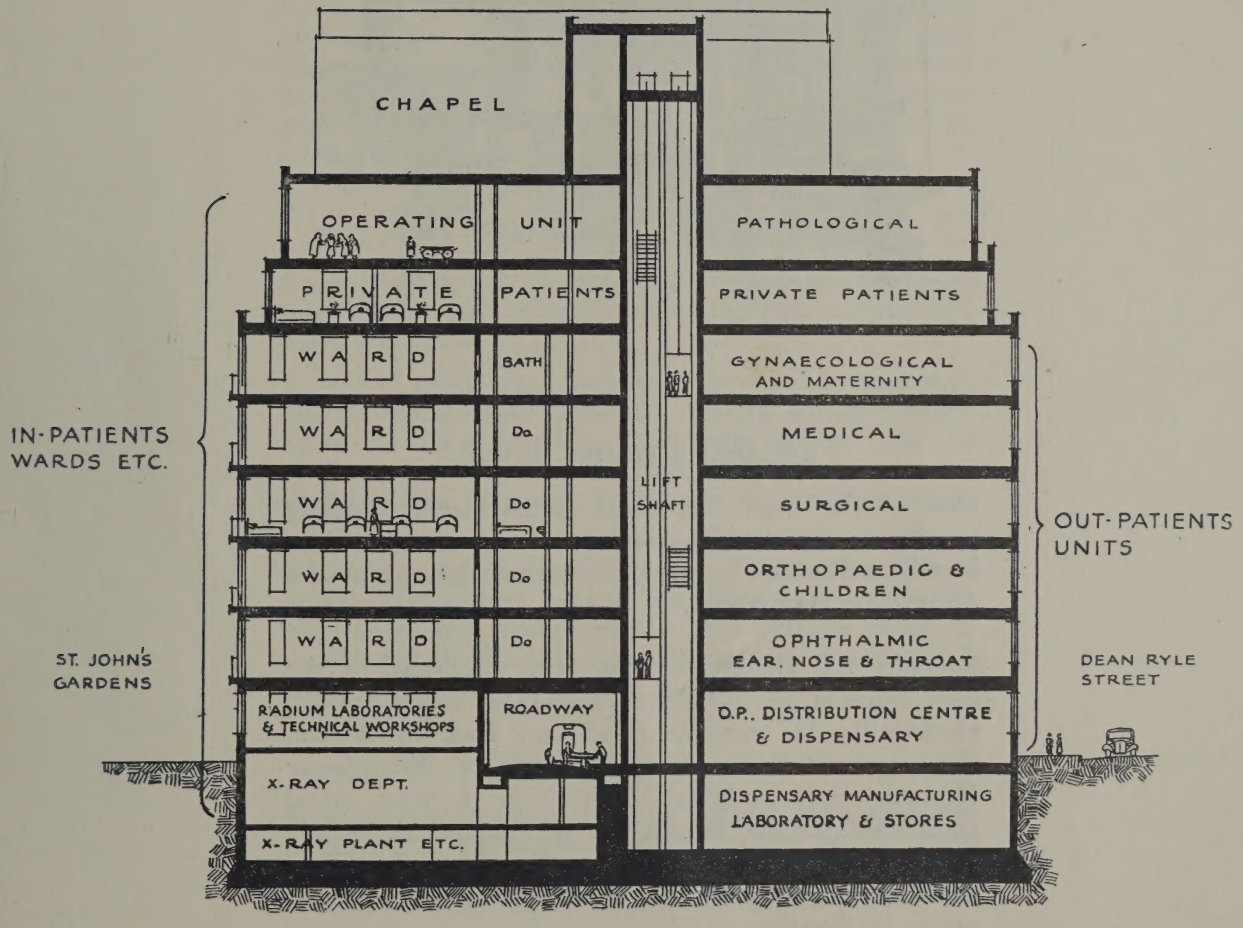
150 students must be catered for at least once a day ;

20 resident medical officers will take their meals daily in one section or another of the hospital ;

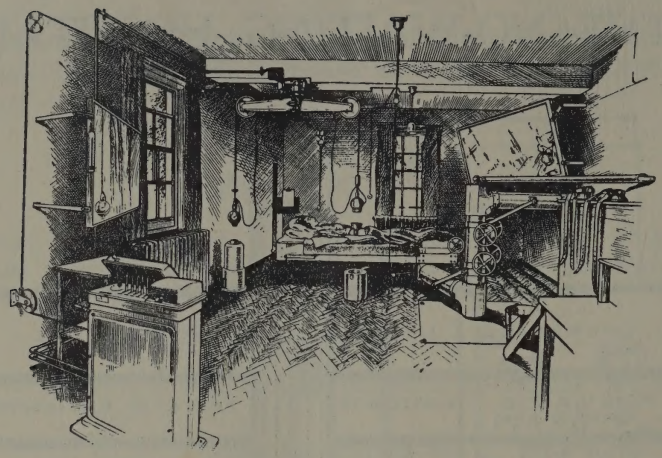
30 visiting medical men and members of the administrative staff will also use the dining rooms.

Catering for such a large establishment, comparable to that of a great hotel, involves problems which only hotel and restaurant experts can solve. In its plans for feeding its 900 patients and staff, the hospital has been greatly assisted by the advice of a great catering firm of international reputation, and a system has been evolved which will promote economy and labour saving in the purchase and preparation of food, efficiency and rapidity in service, and a varied and well-cooked daily dietary. As a matter of detail it may be noted that there will be a cafeteria for the medical students.

THE NO-WAITING HOSPITAL



A Section of the New Hospital showing relation of Out-patient Clinics to Wards



£40,000 Radium Bomb

One of the most important Departments awaiting transfer to the new Hospital when completed is that in which Radium is used, at present housed at the Annexe in Hampstead.

Recently this Department has been developed by the installation of newly-designed apparatus which controls electrically the movements of two Radium Bombs, also constructed for the special use of Westminster Hospital upon original lines from a new metal compound. These Bombs can be charged alternately without risk to the operator, with no less than four grammes of Radium, the total value of which approximates to £40,000.

The honorary surgeons in charge of this important work are satisfied that the expenditure upon this installation and the use of this large quantity of Radium is justified by results already obtained with five smaller bombs. The Radium work of Westminster Hospital illustrates very plainly the high cost of those modern methods of healing which scientific research has made possible and without which a Hospital cannot be considered complete to-day.

The Cancer Wards

Special wards will be reserved for patients suffering from cancer on a floor in one of the wings of the new main Hospital.

In these wards the beds will be suitably screened, and the whole of the treatment, nursing, and attendance upon patients in this important section will be conducted on the modern lines developed in recent years by the surgeons in charge at the Hampstead Annexe.

Progress made in the treatment of malignant disease at the Hampstead Annexe has been substantial. It will be greater still when the new hospital makes it possible for all efforts in this direction to be concentrated under one roof.

Why Westminster is moving

Westminster Hospital is being moved to a new site because it is no longer possible to carry on the work efficiently in the existing century-old building. Our present arrangements are uneconomical. The old hospital is too small and cannot be enlarged.

By rebuilding on a new site Westminster brings together all its scattered activities, effects many economies in maintenance and administration, and offers its medical and surgical staffs opportunities for carrying on their work under the best possible modern conditions.

Where Westminster is going

Always faithful to Westminster, where it was founded in 1715 "for the sick and needy persons of St. Margaret's parish", the Hospital has found a new home in a business and industrial quarter behind the Abbey. To the south of it will be Lambeth Bridge and Millbank now lined with great modern office buildings. To the west are blocks of new Lutyens flats for working-men and their families. The new hospital will thus have at its doors a great industrial population on either side of the Thames, and will be at the same time readily accessible to those who come to it for special treatment from all parts of London and from the country.

The New Nurses' Home

The new Nurses' Home, now rising so rapidly on one side of the Garden with its pleasant outlook upon the Garden will be a really attractive place of residence in which the nurses will be removed from the scene of their duties while at the same time easily within reach of them. Three rooms on the first floor, each opening on to a terrace and serving usually as reading and common rooms, will on occasion become one hall,

beautified by the gift of an anonymous donor and supporter of the building scheme, and will be used for entertainment and dancing. The Senior Administrative Sisters will have each a bedroom and a sitting-room ; nurses will have their combined bed-sitting-rooms in addition to their common rooms. Everything which economical modern design and furnishing can effect will be done to give the nursing staff comfort and a feeling of home.

The New Medical School

The Medical School will combine under one roof lecture rooms, laboratories, a gymnasium, library, museum and rest rooms, the teaching work of the hospital being of the highest importance to present and future generations. The plans have been drawn with a view to attracting to Westminster Hospital students who will maintain the high reputation which Westminster-trained men have earned in medicine, surgery, and medical research, and giving to the teaching staff the fullest opportunities to carry on the work of educating the doctor of the future. The pathological and chemical laboratories will be enlarged and extended for the service of the hospital and research.

Lord Horder, addressing the new students at the inauguration of the autumn session of Westminster Medical School, September 28th, 1936, said : " *You have chosen a good school and a good time in its history. Westminster is in the van of medical progress.*"

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE (DUCHESS OF ARGYLL)

By Courtesy of Bessano Ltd.

Patroness of Westminster Hospital

THE FINAL APPEAL

This, we earnestly hope and believe, is our Final Appeal for the Rebuilding of Westminster Hospital.

The financial statement which follows shows how near we are to bringing our scattered buildings together upon a new site, and completely modernising our Hospital, founded 200 years since and rebuilt 100 years ago, which we are now compelled to rebuild again.

Costing in all over £850,000, **this new Hospital lacks but £250,000 for completion.**

To those generous donors who have already contributed to date close upon £200,000 our sincerest thanks and gratitude are tendered.

We now offer to all friends of Westminster Hospital—and to all who are grateful for the services which Voluntary Hospitals, of which Westminster was the first, render to humanity—the opportunity of completing this great scheme.

The appeal is urgent. By the end of 1938 we must evacuate our old buildings. In two years time every activity of old Westminster must be centered in our new hospital buildings with all the improvements described and pictured in these pages. The patients must be in their new wards, the nurses in their new home, the research workers in their new laboratories, the students in their new medical school.

RE-BUILDING APPEAL FUND, NOVEMBER 1936

The estimated cost of the Hospital and Nurses' Home, building and site, is ..	£749,357
The donations received and estimated value of proceeds of sale of sites is ..	£522,592
Leaving £226,765 to be found.	
The estimated cost of the Medical School building and site, is	£106,181
The donations received and estimated value of proceeds of sale of site, is ..	£82,056
Leaving £24,125 to be found by the Medical School Authorities.	
TOTAL COST	**£855,538**

TOTAL TO BE FOUND £250,890

Everyone who subscribes to-day will, we hope, rejoice with us in the opening of the new Westminster Hospital in 1939.

At all stages this rebuilding scheme has received the full approval of every outside authority concerned. King Edward's Hospital Fund, the London County Council, the Middlesex County Council, and the Westminster City Council have been consulted and have co-operated in every way possible.

Your generous help will now make possible the speedy realisation of this great ideal.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

Under the Especial Patronage of

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE (DUCHESS OF ARGYLL)

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